

Housing for Seniors Under Development

Community Members Could Live by MIT

By Jiao Wang
STAFF REPORTER

A new housing project is being planned near MIT, intended primarily to allow senior members of the community to stay connected with campus life.

Named “Aging in Place,” the project is one of many around the country that allows senior community members to continue to pursue professional goals even after retirement.

Former MIT President Paul E. Gray ’54, one of the principal coordinators of the project, said the driving force behind the project “is a considerable number of people around MIT who now live in the suburbs, who are finding commuting more and more difficult.”

Community planning underway

The residential community would not be assisted living but would offer help to residents, allowing them to continue to live on their own. Living in the community would keep the residents close to MIT, including its medical services and events.

According to Gray, “the idea is that you would be able to stay [at home] all your life” rather than lose independence to an assisted care program. The proposed site and community would provide “assistance with shopping, transportation, and health care in one’s home,” as needed, Gray said.

According to an MIT-sponsored

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Inauguration Week Kicks Off



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

President Susan Hockfield takes the first walk across the *White Noise, White Light* exhibit at its opening Monday on Kresge Oval. The interactive sound and light installation was originally used at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens. It creates a luminous sound-scape with speakers and semi-flexible fiber-optic strands which respond to touch and movement. The display based on a physical phenomenon called John-son noise and was created by Professor J. Meejin Yoon.

By Kathy Lin
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Amid the delectable desserts and curious crowds that filled Kresge Oval last night, President Susan Hockfield could be spotted chatting casually with students. After offering some remarks to the growing crowd, she joined her daughter Elizabeth as the first people to walk through the *White Noise, White Light* exhibit on the oval.

The dessert and exhibit opening

marked the beginning of a week of festivities for Hockfield’s inauguration. The inaugural ceremony will take place this Friday, May 6, in Killian Court, and the festivities will culminate with a block party on Saturday.

The theme of the inaugural festivities is “Uncommon | In common — A Celebration of MIT,” referring to “the exceptional aspects of MIT’s culture that make the MIT community unique,” according to

the inauguration Web site, <http://web.mit.edu/inauguration/>.

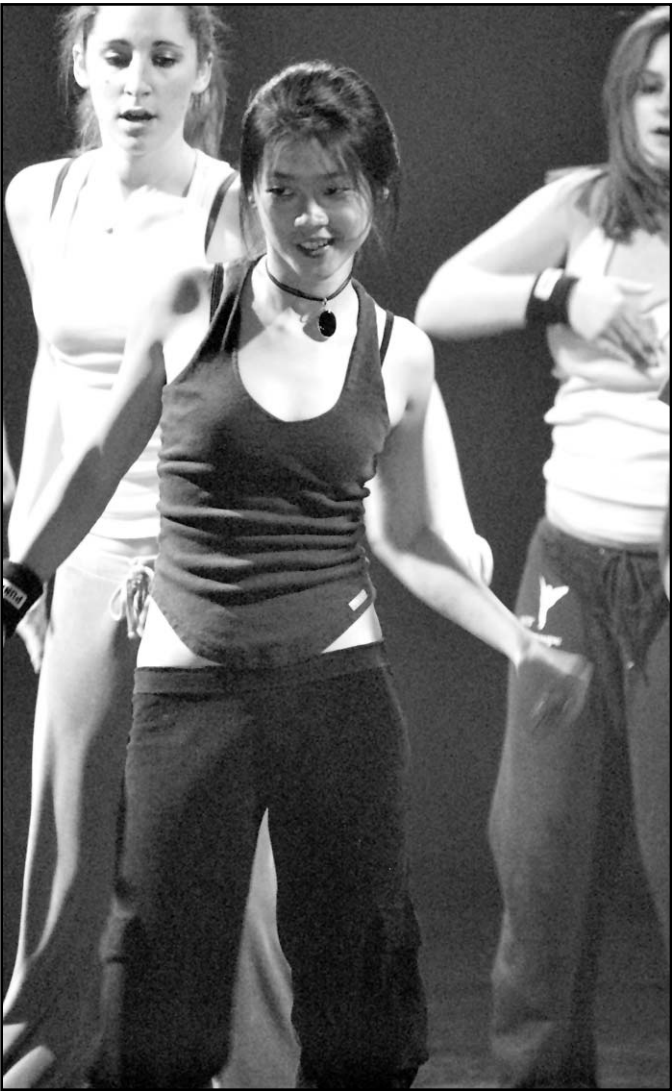
“Official collegiate presidential inaugurations” are intended to “[acknowledge] formally a change in leadership at an institution’s highest level,” according to the Web site.

Hockfield officially took office on December 6, 2004. As the successor to Former President Charles M. Vest, Hockfield is the 16th president of MIT.

Community Events Schedule for Hockfield Inauguration

| Date/Time | Event | Location |
|---|---|---|
| Monday, May 2 7:00 p.m. | Opening of <i>White Noise, White Light</i> | Kresge Oval |
| Tuesday, May 3 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. | Reception hosted by Working Group on Support Staff Issues Symposium, Interdisciplinary Research: Making Uncommon Connections | Walker Memorial Kirsch Auditorium, Stata Center |
| Wednesday, May 4 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. | K–12 Midway Symposium, Art & Technology | Stata Center Student Street Kirsch Auditorium, Stata Center |
| Thursday, May 5 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. | Learning by Design, 2.007 — a retrospective look at how the contest and the machines have evolved with a sneak preview of this year’s hopefuls CSAIL Robots Competition Inaugural Concert, MIT Symphony Orchestra | 10-250 35-303 Kresge Auditorium |
| Friday, May 6 2:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m. | Inaugural Ceremony Community Reception | Killian Court Killian Court |
| Saturday, May 7 3:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m. | Block Party MIT Concert Choir Closing Reception | Kresge Lawns and Athletic Fields (rain location Killian Court) Kresge Auditorium Kresge Lobby |

SOURCE: <http://web.mit.edu/inauguration/schedule.html>



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Bettina H. Tso ’08 dances in a dress rehearsal for the MIT Dance Troupe’s spring performance, “Feet on the Floor.” The show runs Thursday through Sunday in Kresge Little Theater.

Profs Dresselhaus, Langer, Acemoglu Win Research Awards

By Kelley Rivoire
NEWS EDITOR

Three MIT professors have recently won prominent awards for their research.

Institute Professor Mildred S. Dresselhaus won the Heinz Award

for Technology, the Economy and Employment yesterday. Last week, Institute Professor Robert S. Langer PhD ’74 was awarded the \$500,000 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, and Professor of Economics K.

Daron Acemoglu won the John Bates Clark Medal, given every other year to an economics scholar under the age of 40.

Heinz Award given to Dresselhaus

Dresselhaus received the Heinz

Award, which carries \$250,000 in unrestricted funding, for her “contributions in research, teaching and championing women’s role in science,” according to the press release. Dresselhaus, who is a faculty member in the Departments of Electrical

Engineering and Physics, does research with nanostructures, such as carbon nanotubes and bismuth nanowires.

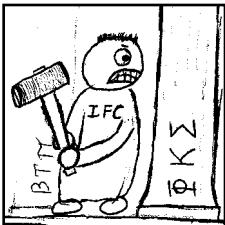
“Throughout her career, Dr. Mil-

Awards, Page 15



An MIT group performs at the Star Wars Convention.

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Comics

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SPORTS

Men’s Tennis wins NEWMAC tournament, the latest in a series of conference wins.

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WORLD & NATION

Cache of Explosives Blows Up, Killing 34 Afghans

By Carlotta Gall
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HERAT, AFGHANISTAN

A cache of explosives stored at a former Afghan commander's house blew up Monday in a village in northern Afghanistan, devastating much of the village and killing 34 people and injuring another 16, most of them women and children, local officials said.

Medical staff sent to the scene reported seeing 26 bodies prepared for burial before sunset, as another seven bodies were pulled from the rubble, the director of the Civilian Hospital of Pul-i-Khumri, Dr Muhammad Yusuf Fayeze said in a telephone interview. Another man with grave injuries to the head died in the hospital this evening, he said, bringing the total dead to 34.

Eleven people remain in hospital, one of them in critical condition, Fayeze said. Six were treated and allowed home, he said.

The explosion happened in the village of Kohna Deh, in the province of Baghlan, some 75 miles north of Kabul, and was heard more than 15 miles away, the official Bakhtar news agency reported.

Verizon to Acquire MCI As Qwest Bows Out

By Ken Belson and Matt Richtel
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A fierce takeover battle ended Monday when Qwest Communications said it would no longer pursue buying MCI Inc., leaving the once-bankrupt long distance carrier to be acquired by Verizon Communications.

The move concludes a three-month effort by Qwest, the smallest of the regional telephone companies, to outmaneuver Verizon, the nation's largest phone provider. Many analysts considered a merger with MCI Qwest's best option for staying competitive in the turbulent telecommunications industry.

But in taking on Verizon in the bidding war, Qwest gave investors reason to focus on its many weaknesses, notably its \$17.5 billion in debt, its lack of a cellular business and its underutilized long-distance network. It is not clear that the company has any ready alternatives now that its biggest rival has won MCI.

Qwest's decision to bow out of the bidding came just hours after MCI's board accepted a sweetened takeover offer on Monday from Verizon of \$26 a share, up from \$23.10 a share. The board said Verizon's new bid, which is still 13 percent lower than Qwest's last offer of \$30 a share, was superior.

Report Says Modified Rice Could Greatly Benefit Farmers

By David Barboza
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SHANGHAI, CHINA

Genetically modified rice could bring huge benefits to Chinese farmers, lowering their costs, improving harvest yields, and greatly reducing the use of pesticides, according to a report published in the journal Science last week.

The study, conducted by American and Chinese scientists who have long backed the crops, comes as the Chinese government is deciding whether to approve the sale of genetically modified rice, which would make China the first nation to adopt biotechnology crops in one of the world's leading food staples.

It also comes just weeks after Greenpeace advocates said that a group of "rogue scientists" experimenting with genetically modified rice illegally allowed the rice to seep into the food system.

Backers of genetically modified crops — who insist there is no scientific proof of health threats — hope that if China approves the altered rice, such an endorsement might alleviate health and environmental concerns.

Congress Urges for Stricter Driver's License Guidelines

By Matthew L. Wald and David D. Kirkpatrick
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Congress is moving quickly toward setting strict rules on how states issue driver's licenses, requiring them to verify whether each applicant for a new license or a renewal is in this country legally.

A House and Senate conference now taking place has included the requirements, which apply to all 50 states and other jurisdictions that issue licenses, in a supplemental appropriations bill for Iraq, aides involved in the process said. The draft legislation will be finalized in the next few days and is all but certain to pass.

State officials complain that the new requirements will add a costly, complicated burden to the issuing of driver's licenses, which has been their responsibility for almost a century.

Civil rights organizations and privacy advocates say they are concerned that a standardized driver's license would amount to a national identification card and that a central database would be vulnerable to identify theft.

The proposed regulations would

replace a provision of the intelligence bill passed in December that called on state and federal agencies to develop new rules for licenses. That law did not specifically require states to check the citizenship or immigration status of applicants.

Eleven states now grant driver's licenses to noncitizens who do not have visas. There is no reliable estimate of how many licenses have been issued to noncitizens, whether in the country legally or illegally.

Some of the ideas in the new measure were rejected in the December debate.

But conservative members of the House, led by Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., R-Wis., threatened to block passage of the intelligence bill, until they won an agreement that they could try again this year. They got a pledge from the leadership to include the driver's license measures in a must-pass bill this year.

Under the rules being considered, before granting a driver's license, a state would have to require proof of citizenship or legal presence, of an address, and of a Social Security number. It would need to check the legal status of noncitizens against a national immi-

gration database, to save copies of any documents shown and to store a digital image of the face of each applicant.

The licenses issued must include the driver's address and a digital photograph, and would incorporate new authentication features designed to prevent counterfeits.

The new law would require that the licenses of legal temporary residents expire when their visas do.

Supporters of the law say it addresses important security problems, and they note that of the 19 hijackers in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks used driver's licenses as identification when checking in, and that a few had had expired visas.

Supporters also say the measure will help control illegal immigration. Caroline Espinosa, a spokeswoman for NumbersUSA, a group that lobbies for tighter borders and tougher immigration laws, said, "This is really targeted toward national security but a side effect would be discouraging illegal immigrants from coming into the United States and making it more difficult for them to open a bank account, buy a house, rent a car or buy a car."

Tensions Rise As U.S. Demands Iran Dismantle Nuclear Arms

By David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

The gulf between Iran and the United States widened considerably on Monday when the Bush administration, at the opening of a conference on the future of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, demanded that Iran dismantle all the "equipment and facilities" it has built over the past two decades to manufacture nuclear material.

The demand, made by Stephen Rademaker, an assistant secretary of state who spoke at the opening of the conference in the chamber of the General Assembly on Monday afternoon, has been made before by the United States. But it came only two days after Iran

threatened to resume some production activities in coming weeks.

As part of Iran's negotiations with the European Union over the future of its nuclear program — which it insists is solely intended for electricity production — Iran has demanded that it must be allowed to install 3,000 centrifuges, which enrich uranium. If enriched at a low level, that uranium could fuel a nuclear power plant. But the centrifuges could also produce enough highly enriched uranium to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Rademaker's statement Monday was intended to focus the conference on loopholes in the 35-year-old treaty, which he charged that Iran and North Korea have

exploited.

"Today, the treaty is facing the most serious challenge in its history due to instances of non-compliance," he said.

Though the International Atomic Energy Agency has said it has yet to find concrete evidence of a weapons program in Iran, Rademaker expressed no doubts about what Iran has done, or how it got the help.

"For almost two decades Iran has conducted a clandestine nuclear weapons program, aided by the illicit network of A.Q. Khan," Rademaker said, referring to the head of Pakistan's nuclear research laboratory, who was at the center of a huge black-market network in nuclear technology.

WEATHER

More Than April Showers

By Michael J. Ring
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

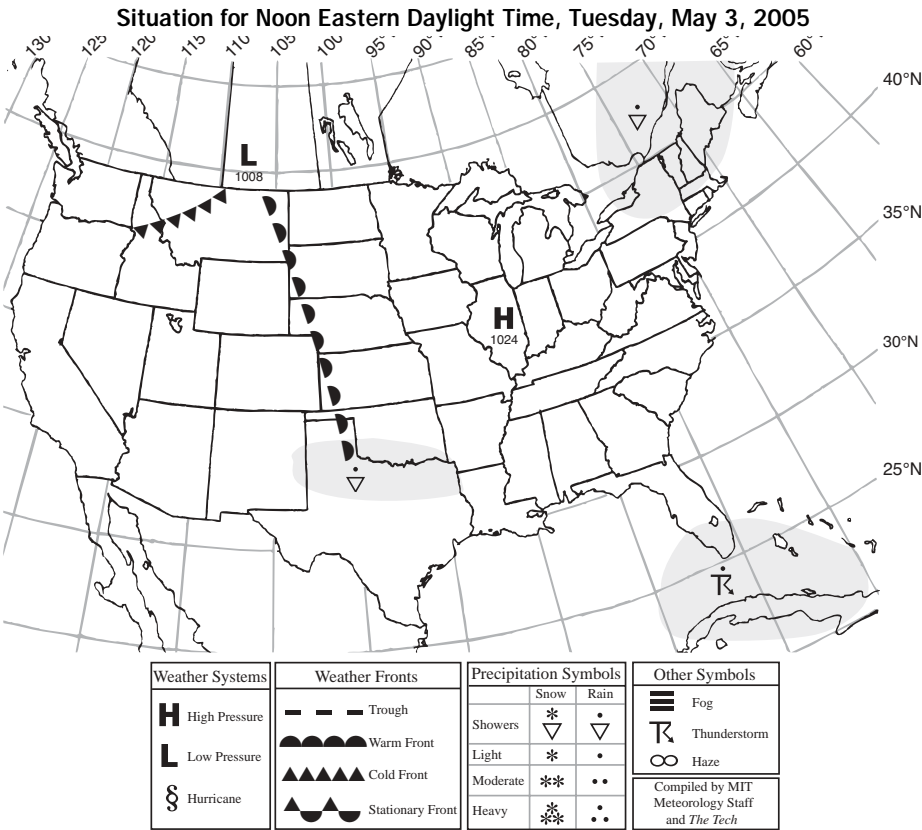
Although there may be a few showers about today and tomorrow, we should dry out from our rainy April later in the week.

Officially, Logan Airport only recorded 3.17" of rain during the month of April — about half an inch below normal. This total is a little suspect, however, considering most surrounding stations reported heavy rain totals for the month. Worcester, Mass. and Concord, N.H. each received 2.5" in excess of their respective normal April precipitation levels, while Providence, R.I. recorded 0.75" in excess of the normal level.

As for this week's weather, there is not much noteworthy here in New England or across most of the country. A trough sliding out of Quebec may bring clouds and showers today and tomorrow, but once it clears, we will enjoy sunny skies and mild temperatures later in the week.

Extended Forecast

- Today:** Partly cloudy with a few isolated sprinkles. High near 60°F (16°C).
- Tonight:** Partly cloudy with a low near 40°F (4°C).
- Wednesday:** Scattered showers with a high again near 60°F (16°C) and a low near 40°F (4°C).
- Thursday:** Sunny and slightly warmer. High near 66°F (19°C). Low near 48°F (9°C).
- Friday:** Still sunny and mild with highs in the upper 60s°F (near 20°C).



Afghanistan, Iraq Costing U.S. In Ability to Deal With Conflicts

By Thom Shanker
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The concentration of American troops and weapons in Iraq and Afghanistan limits the Pentagon’s ability to deal with other potential armed conflicts, the military’s highest-ranking officer reported to Congress on Monday. The officer, Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, informed Congress in a classified report that major combat operations elsewhere in the world, should they be necessary, would probably be more protracted and produce higher American and foreign civilian casualties because of the commitment of Pentagon resources in Iraq and

Afghanistan.

After a half-dozen Pentagon civilian and military officials discussed the outlines of the report on Monday, as it was delivered officially to Congress, one government official provided a copy to The New York Times.

Myers cited reduced stockpiles of precision weapons, which were depleted during the invasion of Iraq, and the stress on reserve units, which fulfill the bulk of combat support duties in Iraq, as among the factors that would limit the Pentagon’s ability to prevail as quickly as war planners once predicted in other potential conflicts.

Despite the limitations, Myers was unwavering in his assessment

that American forces would win any major combat operation. The American armed forces, he concluded, are “fully capable” of meeting all Washington’s military objectives.

The general’s report appears to provide a slightly different assessment than President Bush offered at a news conference last week when he said the number of American troops in Iraq would not limit Washington’s military options elsewhere.

Bush said he had asked Myers, “Do you feel that we’ve limited our capacity to deal with other problems because of our troop levels in Iraq?”

“And the answer is no, he didn’t feel a bit limited,” Bush said. “It feels like we got plenty of capacity.”

WHO Announces Polio Virus Case Has Been Detected in Indonesia

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A case of polio has been detected in Indonesia, World Health Organization officials said Monday, indicating that an outbreak spreading from northern Nigeria since 2003 has crossed an ocean and reached the world’s fourth most populous country.

The virus, found in a village on the island of Java, is most closely related to a strain that was found in Saudi Arabia in December, the officials said. The virus was probably carried there either by an Indonesian who had worked in Saudi Arabia or by a pilgrim who had gone to Mecca in January.

Indonesia’s last case was in 1995,

and it is now the 16th country to be reinfected by a strain of the virus that broke out in northern Nigeria when vaccinations stopped there, then crossed Africa and the Red Sea.

The officials recommended that Indonesia immediately vaccinate 5 million children on the western end of Java, including those in the capital, Jakarta. The country began planning such a drive last week, they said.

Indonesia has more Muslims than any other nation, and polio is now found almost exclusively in Muslim countries or regions.

Resistance to polio vaccine has been high from northern Nigeria to the Pakistan frontier because of persistent rumors that it is a Western plot to render Muslim girls infertile

or to spread AIDS. After several states in Muslim northern Nigeria halted vaccinations in 2003, it was purchases of Indonesian vaccine that finally persuaded wary imams and politicians to drop their opposition, because it is a Muslim country.

With each new case, WHO’s goal of eradicating polio by the end of this year slips further away.

With its emergency response fund virtually depleted, the organization has begun pleading with donors for help with containing new outbreaks in Ethiopia, Yemen and other very poor countries.

At the disease’s low point, in early 2003, it was endemic in only six countries: Nigeria, Niger, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan and India.

Taiwan Seeks Better Military Liaison With China

By Keith Bradsher
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TAIPEI, TAIWAN

A proposal by Taiwan’s leader on Monday for the Chinese and Taiwanese military to communicate better to reduce the risk of unintended conflicts was the latest in a series of moves driven by a coming election here and by an effort to improve relations.

During a visit on Monday to the Marshall Islands, President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan called for a “cross-strait military and security mutual trust mechanism as soon as possible,” the state-owned Central News Agency here reported. There was no immediate response from the Chinese government, which is closed for the week of May Day holidays.

Taiwanese officials have been trying for years to persuade China to adopt measures to ensure that a conflict can be avoided in the Taiwan Strait. China has repeatedly rejected such suggestions, choosing instead to keep pressure on the island with a double-digit growth rate in military spending and a rapid buildup in ballistic missiles aimed at the island.

The two sides still lack a hotline between their militaries to discuss possible incidents like a collision of military jets or naval vessels, military experts say.

Ugly Children May Get Parental Short Shift

By Nicholas Bakalar
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Parents would probably deny it, but Canadian researchers have made a startling assertion: Parents take better care of pretty children than they do ugly ones.

Researchers at the University of Alberta carefully observed how parents treated their children during trips to the supermarket. They found that physical attractiveness made a big difference.

The researchers noted whether the parents belted their youngsters into the grocery cart seat, how often the parents’ attention lapsed, and the number of times the children were allowed to engage in potentially dangerous activities like standing up in the shopping cart. They also rated each child’s physical attractiveness on a 10-point scale.

The findings, not yet published, were presented at the Warren E. Kalbach Population Conference in Edmonton, Alberta.

When it came to buckling up, pretty and ugly children were treated in starkly different ways, with seat belt use increasing in direct proportion to attractiveness. When a woman was in charge, four percent of the homeliest children were strapped in compared with 13.3 percent of the most attractive children. The difference was even more acute when fathers led the shopping expedition — in those cases, none of the least attractive children were secured with seat belts, while 12.5 percent of the prettiest children were.

The Sloan Subject Prioritization System Bidding Dates for Fall, 2005 Classes

<http://sloanbid.mit.edu>

Leave password field blank, create new password under 'Personal Information'

Institute-wide bidding for Sloan subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 11

Closes 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 23

Waitlist-Only Round for closed Sloan subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, July 15

Closes 5:00 p.m., Sunday, July 31

Please contact Tara Walor, twalor@mit.edu, if you have any questions regarding Sloan Course Bidding.

Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on September 6 and will be posted on the bidding website as of July 15 -- write down your password to check results!

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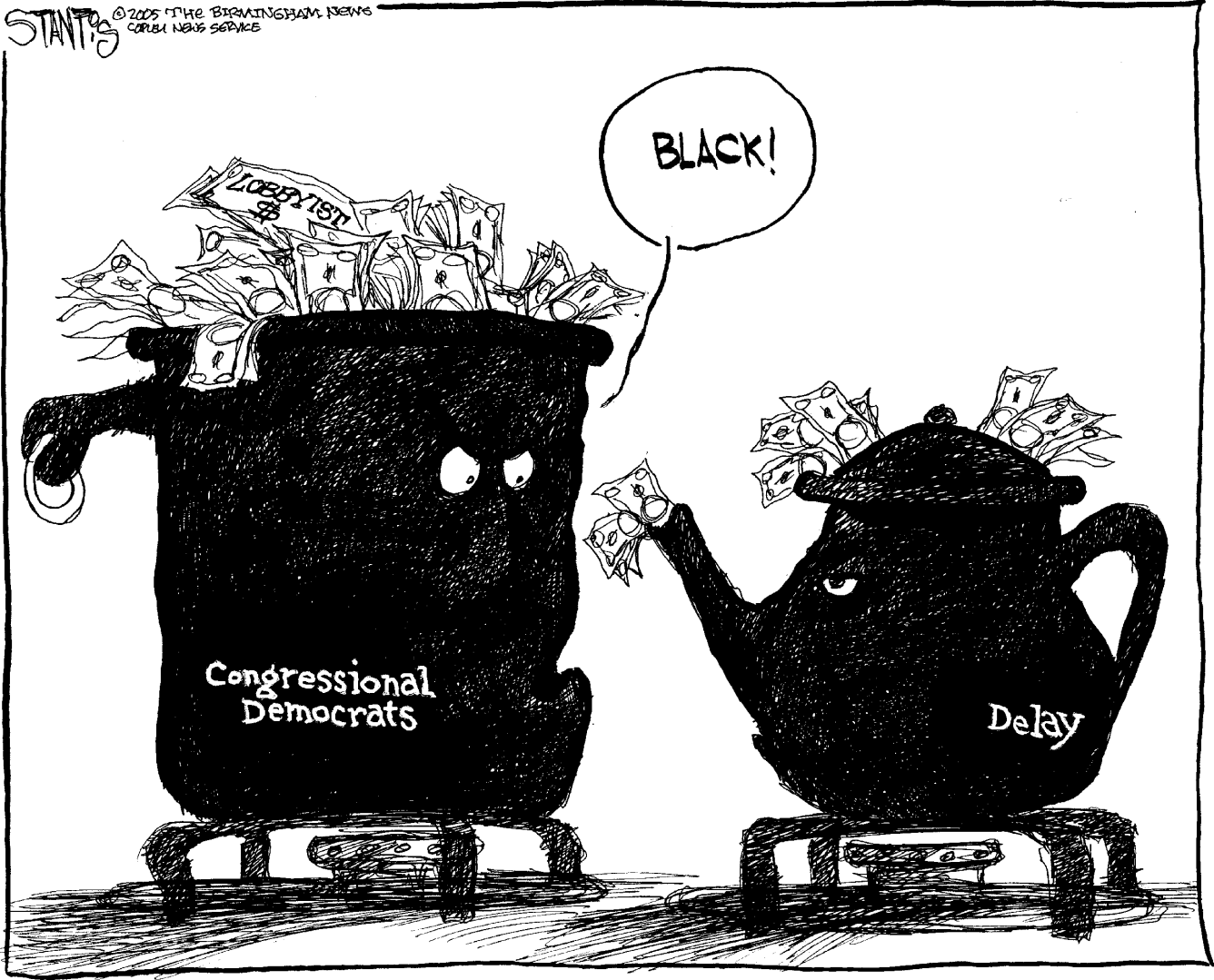
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How to Not Start a Beef

Brian Loux

During the hoopla with regard to the Caltech hacks of last month, I couldn't help but think about an episode of the mediocre NBC series *Las Vegas* that my friend at the University of Maryland had mentioned to me. *TV Tome* tells me this episode was entitled "Groundhog Summer." In it, three MIT students go to Vegas loaded with high-tech equipment. For most of the episode, we think that they are out to pull the greatest heist since Ocean's Eleven, but it actually turns out that they only wish to hack Vegas's electronic billboards to read "MIT rules! Caltech sucks!" At first, I found it cute, but my friend's objective analysis set me straight: "I dunno, Brian. They did all that work just to write that? That's pretty lame."

Which brings me to the incidents of last month. If for some reason, you still feel the need for revenge against Caltech next year, I beg that you take a deep breath and think again. What merits such an action? How often can you spin some form of "your university sucks" without it getting old? Why waste your time? Don't forget that while the endeavors of the Californians clearly displayed cunning, ingenuity, and fortitude, it couldn't erase that the fact that they also displayed something else — desperation.

Let's do a little math right now. How much do you think this whole plan cost? We'll start by being generous. Take out the costs of the banner and paint, as well as the balloons that most likely needed to be specially ordered; suppose the laser machine was taken from a

lab; and assume that the students who gave the "prankers" room space also paid for their food. But then there are some costs you can't avoid, like hundreds of individually-wrapped silk-screened T-shirts that likely cost over \$10 even at a discount rate, and — according to the hackers themselves — \$215 plane tickets for 16 students. That's nearing the \$10,000 mark. How'd they get that much? Was one of their hacks embezzling from *The Tech*?

Next, make an estimate about how much time was invested in creating a plan for this. Keep in mind that they allege to have started planning late last fall.

Now consider how many of the hacks you actually saw yourself, and finally consider your emotional response upon reading about the hacks. Heck, how many of you remember them? Before I started writing this, I did a quick straw poll of students about how they felt about the pranks. Replies are summarized as follows: "lame," "a weak showing," and "They flew all the way out here for that?" I'm going to go with those.

Conclusion: that's a pretty big cost to benefit ratio. I don't mean to say that all hacks should be cheap, quick, and easy, but there comes a point to any enterprise where the time you've sunk into the project warrants nothing short of unparalleled greatness. Forking over the cash to see R2D2, the Wright Brother's flyer, or a squad car on the top of the dome elicits something of a "holy shit!" response. If you're investing more than \$3,000 in plane tickets alone, you better not leave until you've left some enormous FU on the Big Dome or demolished at least one building.

Despite the sad payoff, it still went

through. And why? Go to <http://caltechvsmit.com>, and you'll get a better idea of the mindset at work here. The homage performed at the "tomb of the unknown tool" reeks of a forceful attempt to be part of something of which they are not. Then there's the embarrassingly phony language hailing MIT's ingenuity at responding to their hacks, treating MITers like we're old adversaries (I'm sorry, but at what point in our non-existent history did we become the equivalent of Captain Kirk and Khan?) These two points tie into the overwhelming insistence to start a tradition. The authors cannot go more than five lines without saying — either through polite requests or the quintessential "[or] if you want to grow up" — that they expect a counterhack by MIT. And so we start to see the desperation.

They need this rivalry. They're begging for it. They even have their president saying he expects a "next round." That they got to us. It's a need for recognition. They want to — dare I risk the hate mail to follow — play the game on our level. But we don't need a war. We don't need recognition. We've played our game just fine for over a century. We're the giant, they're the upstart. And there's no need to respond in full to every person trying to knock you and make a name for himself. This is not the rap industry.

There's another good reason this rivalry shouldn't happen: \$215 plane tickets. All of the great rivalries of the world — Duke and UNC, Michigan and Ohio State, Red Sox and Yankees, the Hatfields and the McCoys, 50 Cent and the Game — all have something very important in common: a lack of distance between the two. Trying otherwise just doesn't work. Every American League team hates the Yankees, but when it comes down to it, they recognize that they can't have the rivalry that the Sox do.

The one rivalry that transcended distance was the US versus the USSR, and bear in mind they had a lot more capital to spend, and it almost killed us all. Race to the moon? Cool — a test of which civilization is more civi-

lized. But what about the rivalry at the Olympics, where we put our politics on the shoulders of our hockey players and/or underdeveloped teenage female acrobats? I ask you now, as children who did not grow up with the Cold War on their mind, doesn't that sound ... a little petty?

If these guys want a Caltech/MIT rivalry, I say we give them one, but make it a solar car race, or a quiz bowl competition, or an interschool 6.270 showdown. We're rivals of engineering academia. Hacking, while similar in part, is a different realm. And even though the Caltech folk say on their Web site they are steeped in the traditions of hacking, I don't think they understand that.

It's nice to see there was no retaliation the week after, but I doubt people will hold off next year as it seems most are falling for their plot hook, line, and sinker. This paper itself has given the pranksters a four-column headline and stated that they most certainly have instigated a rivalry. We have our Dean of Admissions giving Caltech the thumbs-up and saying she loves the concept of the feud (Marilee, honey, I can barely pay my rent and tuition over here. You think we're gonna shell out an extra \$215 or more a year for a week-end jaunt?). For God's sake, we even have MIT hackers trying to block their Web site! Is this it?! Are we really about to sink to their level?! We've lost so many traditions over the last decade; are we now going to start one because of a measly banner that didn't even stay up for an hour?

I give Caltech this: You guys are effective. And we lose out to you on a few things, there's no doubt about it. We're masochistic nerds who live in a city for the nine months that it's colder than Kyle Korver against the Pistons. We haven't pulled off an exceptional hack in a long time, so we may even be less clever, stealthy, and ingenious than you. We're so obsessed with doing our homework and putting on false faces for the prefrash that we can hardly defend our own turf.

But we're not lame.

Cecilia C. Lopez

I was quite shocked to read Nick Baldasaro's opinion column ["Privileges, Not Rights," April 26] stating that most of what

Letter to the Editor

are called rights nowadays "are in fact extra privileges that can exist only if sufficient wealth arises

and which additionally are not necessary for fulfillment." His first writes that "it should be defined that rights don't change in time." Thus, people don't have the right to an education or to free health care, for example, just because the farmers of the 1800s didn't have these rights. This premise is just nonsense, since it leads to a ridiculous situation: should we only consider rights that were around 500 years ago to be rights today? As Baldasaro said, those who came before fought hard to turn what once were privileges (or even utopian expectations) into rights which we can proudly claim. This is what I call progress, not "cycle of unfulfillment."

The author then argues that the current so-

called rights are in fact privileges resulting from a contingent situation of wealth, supporting this assertion with an erroneous example that actually works against his point. He states that access to free health care is a privilege, because "200 years ago an American farmer would have had no idea what we were talking about, and nor would a contemporary resident of a third world country." Actually, some third world countries have free health care schemes, at least in Latin America. In particular, Argentina and Cuba (two different political systems) have quite developed public health care systems, and they definitely don't qualify as wealthy nations — at least compared to the United States. Historical and political reasons made these societies believe that free health care is a right, and even if they cannot quite afford it (leading to practical doubts about its continuation), the great majority does not deny this is a citizen's right. In time and with further study, experience, and consideration, access to free health care could become a basic right in all civilized societies.

The column presents other misleading examples, like the lack of futuristic rights or the idea that a woman's right to abortion amounts to having "total control" over her body. But I

just want to address a particular one that conveys very dangerous misconceptions: that it is "silliness" to think that "the relatively less wealthy have a right to the wealth of the better off." This is an oversimplification of a crucial issue of our times. Baldasaro states that "behind every single rich person ... if one goes back far enough, is a poor person who spent his or her life working hard so that his or her children may avoid hardship." This extremely naive assumption is the cornerstone for the most savage versions of capitalism. I'm a Latin American woman studying at MIT, so I truly believe that hard work can take us higher. But it is simply

wrong to pretend that some initial conditions and fortunate circumstances (or the lack of unfortunate ones) do not occur in this process. That is why redistributions of wealth, affirmative action, and other socio-political measures must take place to assure people's rights against irresponsible parents, tsunamis, civil wars, a ter-

rible illness in the family, and many other circumstances that may play against our hard work.

Many men and women have worked hard since the Declaration of Independence in order to swell the list of rights from "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." You may want to

check the Declaration of Human Rights or the two International Covenants on Economic, Social, Cultural, Civil, and Political Rights. Hopefully, two World Wars and a few more events did not happen in vain, and now we can proudly claim our rights regarding modern issues such as freedom of opinion and expression, free

primary education, strikes, paid or otherwise compensated maternity leave. Let's commit ourselves to never allow these to become privileges as they might have been in a more primitive past.

Cecilia C. Lopez is a graduate student in the Department of Nuclear Engineering.



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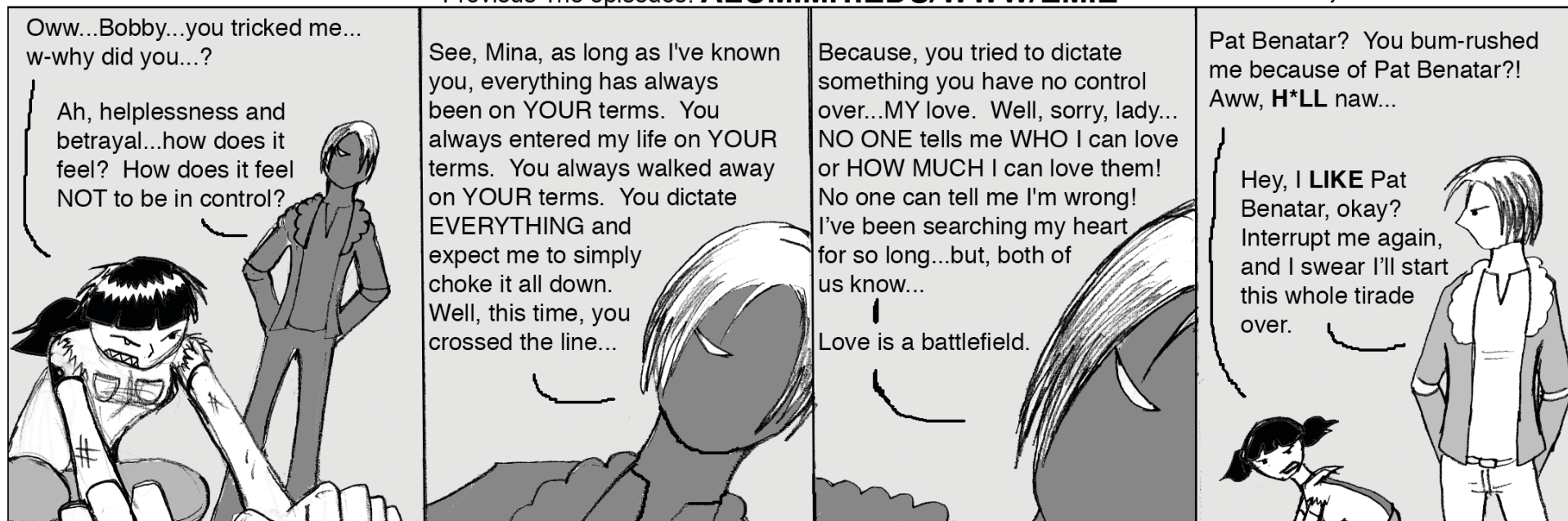
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May 3, 2005 * Page 6

Trio

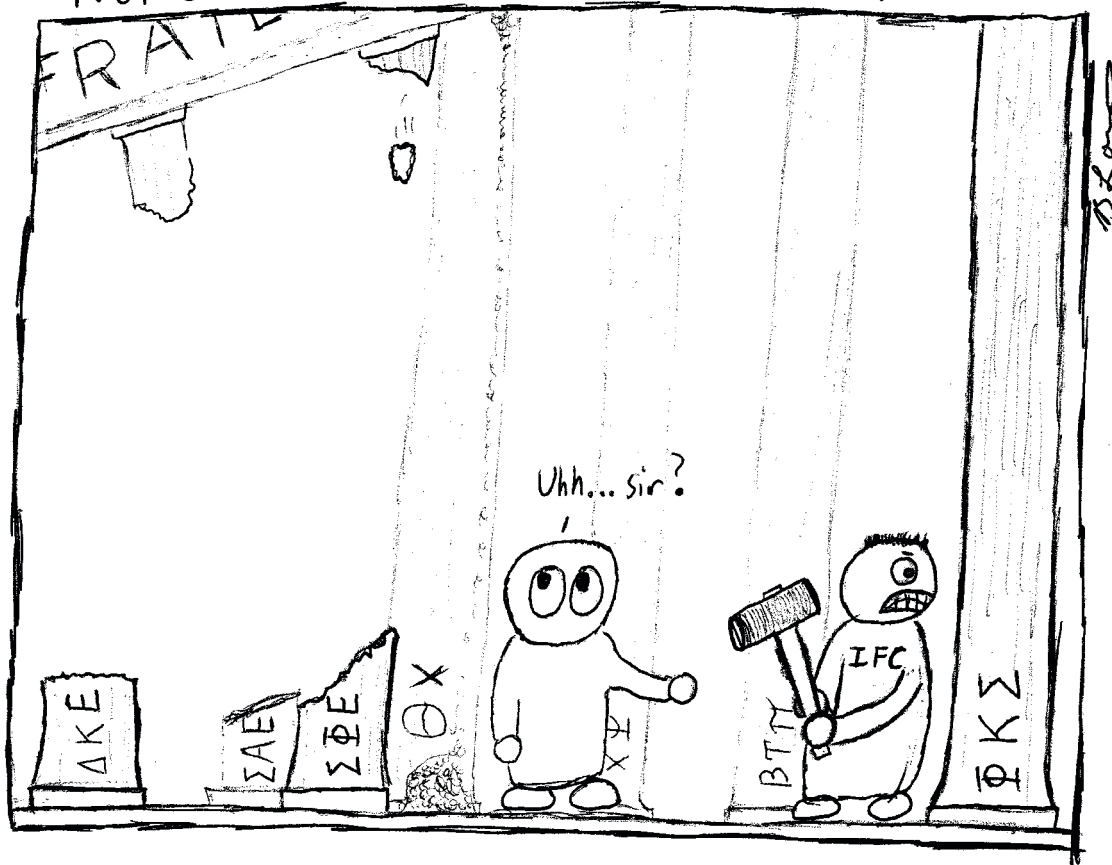
Previous Trio episodes: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



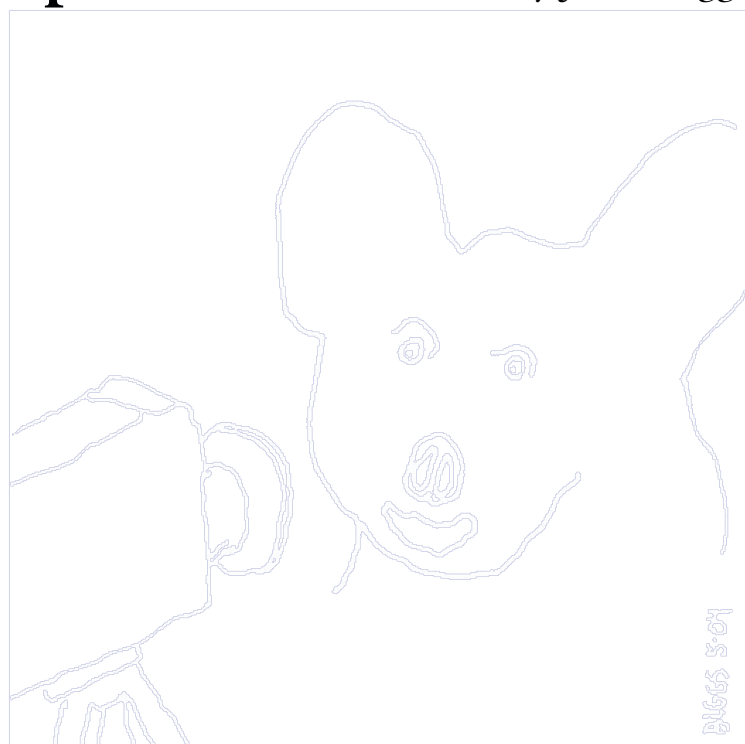
Not So Full House

by Brian Loux



Splatform

by James Biggs



Actually, I find the animal roles the most difficult.



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FoxTrot by Bill Amend

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Crossword Puzzle
Solution, page 11

- ACROSS**

 - 1 Beehive State
 - 5 Shuts with force
 - 10 Loony in London
 - 14 Reebok rival
 - 15 Financial checkup
 - 16 Perpetually
 - 17 Gas or elec.
 - 18 Camel's cousin
 - 19 Dossier
 - 20 Compact pet
 - 23 Noon on a sundial
 - 24 T-shirt size
 - 25 Advanced deg.
 - 28 Condemned
 - 32 Our sun
 - 35 Distinctive atmosphere
 - 37 Something to bark?
 - 38 Ex-QB of the Broncos
 - 40 2000 Woody Allen movie
- 43 MacDill AFB site
 - 44 Sleuth Wolfe
 - 45 Hydrox rival
 - 46 Two in nine?
 - 47 Brutish
 - 50 Pic blowup
 - 51 Birth certificate datum
 - 52 Scheduled to arrive
 - 54 1962 Jimmy Dean hit
 - 63 Lot measure
 - 64 Green stuff
 - 65 Folklore baddie
 - 66 Zip along
 - 67 Loses color
 - 68 "Hud" star Patricia
 - 69 Football positions
 - 70 Follow a trail
 - 71 Canine sound
- DOWN**

 - 1 E pluribus __
- 2 South American monkey
 - 3 Related (to)
 - 4 Spiral form
 - 5 Superlatively pungent
 - 6 Humdinger
 - 7 Hebrew month
 - 8 Silent performer
 - 9 Paper fastener
 - 10 Clear the windshield
 - 11 Ardent
 - 12 Plummeted
 - 13 Ring bearer?
 - 21 Lend a hand
 - 22 Words to a waiter
 - 25 Sticking stuff
 - 26 What to err is
 - 27 Fluid ounce fractions
 - 29 Dishes
 - 30 Country singer LeAnn
- 31 Stagnant
 - 32 Took an oath
 - 33 Like the old bucket of song
 - 34 Disinfectant brand
 - 36 Yodeler's peak
 - 39 Old card game
 - 41 Product sticker
 - 42 Unsolved crime
 - 48 Nonliable
 - 49 That's disgusting!
 - 51 Flower parts
 - 53 Dark hardwood
 - 54 Veg out
 - 55 Desktop image
 - 56 Put one's foot down?
 - 57 Tusked animal
 - 58 1970 Kinks hit
 - 59 Actor Guinness
 - 60 Curved molding
 - 61 Spoken
 - 62 Coarse seaweed

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



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*Introduction by Tom Leighton,
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CAMPUS LIFE

I Did It for Science

Things to Do When You're Stuck in the Lab All Night

By Monica Byrne
STAFF COLUMNIST

For two weeks, I was chained to an irGC-MS (isotope ratio gas chromatograph mass spectrometer) for the sake of my research on ancient plant biomolecules. It's an important machine, being both very expensive and very temperamental. In fact, I leave offerings to appease it (I have even considered sacrificing a fattened UROP on its altar, but luckily for them, it's never gotten quite that bad).

Even when the machine is running beautifully, there are times when a graduate student such as myself must commit an entire night to its operation. This being MIT, I can't imagine that I, or shall I say organic geochemists in general, are the only ones who find themselves in this position. All across this campus, every night, there is a fellowship of the truly committed, tending to their tasks like priestesses to a shrine.

But while waiting for things to evaporate, grow, mix, run, react, sublime, die, condense, boil, compress, explode, or otherwise alter its state, one gets bored. I sure got bored. In the cold morning hours when my synapses were still reasonably active, I started compiling a list: Things to Pass the Time during an All-Nighter in Lab.

1) Assemble differently shaped glassware and stage a soap opera. Mr. Eppendorf is in love with Ms. Erlenmeyer, but Ms. Pipette is a lesbian who steals Ms. Erlenmeyer's heart. Make them fight. Then stage hot beaker-on-beaker action.

2) Go to the bathroom and undress completely. Then put on only a lab coat and safety glasses. Go back to the lab. Expose yourself to inanimate objects with a great big swish. Continue until you have flashed everything in the lab.

3) If you work in a lab with mice, cut one's head off and leave it on your advisor's desk a la "The Godfather."

4) Place the trashcan against the far wall. Wad up scrap paper and aim. Make up gigantic imaginary stakes for each shot, like "With this basket I will single-handedly halt global warming" or "If I make this, bunnies everywhere

will be safe and happy forever."

5) Turn up the suction in your fume hood to maximum. Spray a snot rocket into it and see if it gets sucked up. Extra bonus points if you find where it landed outside.

6) Go to the bathroom and pee with the stall door open. If you feel moved, sing "peace is flowing like a river" at the top of your lungs. If your bathroom has facilities intended for the opposite sex, don't be afraid to experiment with them. If you're male, dig up a quarter and buy a tampon. Carve it into an animal shape and, presto, you have your very own foam toy to play with in the sink! If you're female, construct a funnel out of construction paper and Scotch tape. Decorate it with Sharpies for an added flair. Try using it to pee into a urinal. (I tried this when I was four. It was hard.)

7) Around 4 AM, you might get hungry. Go up onto the roof of your building and hunt pigeons with a metal spatula. When you have felled your beast, pluck it, skin it, and roast it. Use a Bunsen burner. Season with instant coffee crystals from the lounge.

8) Extract some of your toe jam and deposit into a sample vial. Suspend it in solvent, preferably DMSO, because God knows what's in your toe jam. Run it through the machine and analyze the results. Later, present the data under a clever anagram like MAJETO. Submit it as a letter to the editor of Nature.

9) Assemble a flashlight and a mirror. If your significant other happens to be living in Tang, Eastgate, or another line-of-sight residence, call him and wake him up. Promise to make it "worth his while." When he comes to the window, initiate Morse sex. In most cases, this will take longer than regular sex.

10) Convince the night custodian to play Hide-and-Seek with you. When this gets old, pry open the old stack of cards that's been lying in the coffee cabinet, and play War. Continue until one of you loses or feigns death (which-ever comes first).

11) If you've gotten this far, you definitely deserve a nap. Happy dreaming!

Worlds Beyond

The Mackerel

Coming to Terms With What's Behind Us

By Akshay Patil
SENIOR EDITOR

I've been thinking about ass a lot recently. Not so much the physical entity (well, not any more than usual), but the word and the ways we use it.

Take the phrase "ass load" (or "butt load"), for example. What exactly does it mean to have a load of ass? From general use of the phrase, I gather it's supposed to indicate an abundance of something, but that has me a bit confused. When was the last time you saw a whole lot of ass piled up in the back of a truck? Were there other bits of the body attached, or just plain, pure, unadulterated ass? Was there a lot of it? I have a hard time visualizing big piles of ass, sitting around for ass's sake. It certainly does not appear to be a common enough occurrence to inspire such a phrase.

Perhaps "ass load" is meant to refer to how much stuff can be stored in an ass. Now I haven't given this much thought, or subjected the idea to much experimentation, but it seems to me the ass is not a very spacious storage space. Unless one possess a truly extraordinary ass, I can't imagine much fits in there. Now, I understand that many standard/imperial units of measurement are based on aspects of the human nature, but why the ass should have been picked as the metric by which large quantities of stuff are described is a mystery to me.

Another phrase that strikes me as interesting is when someone describes a thing or a person as "looking like ass." It may just be that I'm a strange individual, but I rather enjoy looking at asses. Not to say I go out of my way to gaze at this particular body part, but when given

the opportunity to gaze upon a well-sculpted butt, I can't but help to take the opportunity for admiration. True, not all asses are particularly attractive, but the mental association my mind makes with the ass is a rather pleasant one. Not all roses are beautiful, yet to compare a lady to a rose is rarely a bad move; in contrast, likening a woman to a posterior has not, in my limited personal experience, been something you should attempt unless wearing multiple layers of protective gear.

Truly peculiar is the saying "tastes like ass." I'm not quite sure what this is supposed to mean. I guess I can understand where the speaker is coming from if the phrase refers to licking an ass. I've never really tried that, but I imagine it's not a enjoyable taste. But what if the originator of the phrase meant to liken the subject at hand to the taste of rump? That's a valid part of an animal to eat, isn't it? If people go around eating rump roast, tasting like ass can't be that bad. If rear chops are delectable treats, I can only guess human ass tastes, at the very worst, somewhat like chicken. Again, I'm just speculating here. Strangely enough, "bootylicious" functions as a perfectly pleasant compliment in our language, despite the apparent contradiction.

What we need in society is more transparency concerning ass. No longer should our rear ends be shrouded in a world of mystery, intrigue, and fabric. Let us be forthright with our butts, put them forward, and see where they lead us. Only when we have reached a mutual consensus on just what this endearing body part means to us can we once again communicate without our asses getting in the way.

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Deadlines for the First-Year Summer Mailing 2005

The mailing will be done on a CD-ROM this year.

May 4th: Part I – group identification, contact info and estimated megabytes
(This form should be quick to fill out.)

May 20th: Part II – group descriptions, keywords, optional image and logo

June 3rd: Part III (optional) – group additional data
(The June 3rd deadline is firm.)

All forms for submission can be found at

<http://web.mit.edu/asa/www/Summer/FYSM/2005/>

'Star Wars: Musical Edition'

By Bill Andrews

STAFF COLUMNIST

"Not only will you be performing in front of 3,000 people per show, but you might get a chance to meet George Lucas. He is, after all, paying for us to go out and stay at Indianapolis for Celebration III, the biggest, famous-est, most official Star Wars convention ever." These were the words said to me a few short weeks ago, when "Star Wars: Musical Edition" was but a fond memory.

Catching You Up

Two years ago (IAP '03) MIT's Musical Theatre Guild performed "Star Wars: Musical Edition" in La Sala, selling out nearly every night. "How does that work?" you might ask. Take the script from Star Wars: Episode IV (A New Hope), add a few famous Broadway songs with new lyrics, and presto! You have a Musical Edition. More specifically, it was MTG member Rogue Schindler and his good friend Jeff Sues who wrote the new lyrics and adapted the script, and fellow MTGer Steve Peters who arranged all the music. For instance, there's the ballad Don't Cry for Me, Princess Leia, (to the melody of Don't Cry for Me, Argentina), which is sung to comfort the crying princess after her home planet of Alderaan is blown up. Or Tatooine, (with the music of West Side Story's America), in which Uncle Owen tries to convince Luke Skywalker to stay another year on their boring home planet, all while a chorus of Jawas and droids sings and dances in the background. And, of course, the traditional John Williams score is deftly interwoven throughout the songs and scene change music.

It was a really fun show to be in, as perhaps you can imagine. I played Greedo and Biggs Darklighter, though I needed my friend Katherine (an actual Star Wars fan without whom this article wouldn't be possible) to tell me just who they were exactly. But that was all two years ago; as I said, a distant memory. Sure, MTG plans to put on the whole Trilogy for Fall '05, and Episode III is coming out soon (May 19. You have your tickets, right?), but right now I have better things to think about. Not failing all my classes, for instance. But then fate stepped in, with the aforementioned speech.

The Invitation

Apparently, our little show caused quite a splash in the Star Wars community, enough to get us invited to Celebration III (If you don't think there's a big Star Wars community out there, you're just not looking hard enough). It seems that before each of the infamous prequels there's a big Star Wars convention, called Celebration (I, II, or III, depending on

which episode will soon come out), and it is the mother of all Star Wars conventions. I can tell you, for instance, that the guests at Celebration III included Lando Calrissian, Wicket the Ewok, R2D2, and even Chewbacca (AKA Billy Dee Williams, Warwick Davis, Kenny Baker, and Peter Mayhew). Clearly, a Star Wars fan/nerd's dreams come true.

We hoped all would go well. We'd been rehearsing pretty hard, and the sixteen hour bus ride over provided more than enough time to go over that tricky Death Star Assault Medley. There are tons of cool references and inside jokes to keep even the nerdiest of fanboys happy, and our costumes are pretty impressive (though, at this convention, we weren't the only ones with amazing costumes; more on that later). And hey, George Lucas would be there too! So, armed with the joy of missing classes and the zest of a multi-thousand audience capacity, we were off!

The Musical Edition

To save you some suspense, I'll tell you straight up: we rocked. Everything said about us was good; various news reports mentioned us, and we filled our 3,000-seat audience more than half the time. In fact, we figure about 15,000 people total saw our show last week. That still blows my mind. I've been in marching bands near and far, so a vast audience is nothing new to me. But still, 15,000? Good grief!

All of which is not to say we performed flawlessly. It always surprises me how well theater can look on the outside when things are really messed up behind the curtain. My Jawa eyes stopped working after the third performance, for instance, resulting in some curiosity as to why that second Jawa from the left was blind. Other nights, costume changes took far longer than usual, resulting in 'dead air' on stage, when no one did anything; the audience knew something good was coming, though, so they were patient. One memorable night, my X-Wing collided with another's on stage, tearing one of the wings off; we were all shocked to learn, afterwards, that the audience thought it was all on purpose, and thought nothing was amiss.

But all in all, we did okay. Better: we rocked. And since our shows were only ninety minutes long, we had lots of time to explore the convention.

Our Colleagues

First on our list of attractions were some of the other shows being performed at Celebration III. "Star Wars in 30 Minutes" was one of the more famous shows; it got more publicity than our show did, so we had to check it out. At first, I was a little surprised by the tremendously long line (maybe we should have arrived more than ten minutes before the show started). Fortunately, my girlfriend (also in the cast) realized our badges might help us out. That's right, we had special volunteer badges. Everyone at the convention was required to wear a badge at all times. Customers' said how many days they'd paid admission for and had a nice picture of various Star Wars characters. Ours were blue with a cute picture of R2D2, said Volunteer, and, as it turned out, let us cut lines and get into special places.

So, flashing our badges and smiling proudly, we skipped ahead of the huge line and watched a group of actors perform the entire six-hour trilogy (the oldest three movies) in a half hour. They hit every major event, and spoke every important line, albeit very very quickly.

There was also a man who performed the entire trilogy by himself. Pointing to our badges casually, we skipped ahead to see this performance too, sitting in the very front of a huge hall. A man came out dressed all in black, checked his mike, and did the whole trilogy. It was really impressive, actually; he even got the intonations for the lines right. My girlfriend, not having seen the trilogy as often as I, didn't get some of the more "in" jokes, but she still liked it enough to join in when the guy got a standing ovation.

Next on the convention circuit were the tons of vendor



NORI PRITCHARD

Celebration III was an event for the whole family, complete with a Jedi Training Academy to pass on the ways of the Jedi to a younger generation. Here, a father and son are dressed as one of the Star Wars father and son pairs, Jango and Boba Fett, respectively.

booths and fan activities located in every other room of the convention center. Deciding we didn't need to hear the finer points of building droids or making Imperial officers' tunics, and realizing that if we watched too many fan films, we'd all doze off (we had, after all, been missing sleep for the past week), we decided to try the business end of fandom. Crammed in a hall about three times the size of Johnson were innumerable booths selling limited edition action figures, books, video games, CDs, posters, shirts, and anything else that could possibly have anything ever to do with Star Wars. Being sentimental, my girlfriend and I bought action figures of Greedo, Biggs Darklighter, and a random Imperial officer, along with some other choice souvenirs and knick-knacks.

But for the truly special deals and one-of-a-kind sales, there was no place to go but the Official Celebration III Store. It had a bigger line than anything else at the event, including George Lucas' own appearance and presentation. If you think I'm being facetious when I speak of big lines, and say to yourself, "ha! I've been to Disney World, and been in lines for over four hours, Star Wars ain't got nothin' on that!" then I must sadly inform you that you're trippin', yo. There were lines in excess of ten hours long to get into the store. Perhaps I should repeat that. Ten hours waiting in line. To get into a store. Truly, my eyes were opened to the world of extreme fandom on this trip.

Although, before I vilify the store any further, I should mention my girlfriend and several friends did go. Thanks to our nifty badges, they only had to wait about two and a half hours to buy all the officially-licensed stuff they could afford. Sadly, your intrepid reporter chose to sleep instead, though I did get to glance inside the store at one point, and all I can say is that the room was so large I could not see the other end.

The Fans

But enough! Everyone knows the funniest thing about these conventions is the people who go to them, and this one was no exception. Besides the obscenely long lines to get into stores and shows, the real fans showed their ... dedication in the costumes they wore. I saw everything imaginable (and it was walking around, eating nachos). Amazingly realistic Jedi robes and home made lightsabers, aliens of all colors and shapes and sizes, Princess Leia's golden bikinis (also of every shape and size, sadly). Not to mention the seemingly thousands of realistic stormtroopers everywhere, most from the official stormtrooper fan club, The Fighting 501st

Legion. I felt strangely like a fully-dressed person in a nudist colony.

Particularly curious to me were the dressed up children at the convention. Remember, this means their parents took them out of school for two days, possibly more if they're not from the Indianapolis area. Whether or not these children will need therapy in years to come, however, is not as important as how insanely cute they were. The "Jedi Training Academy," consisting solely of a stage and some questionable parenting, was truly enthralling, as countless little children dressed as dark Jedi or light Jedi or aliens duked it out with play light-sabers. There was a woman dressed as an imperial trooper, white plastic armor and all, who had her son (presumably he was hers) dressed as an Ewok at the end of a leash. It was so weirdly cute! And fitting, too, since ... um, well, it's in Episode VI if you're interested.

I realized I was witnessing the absolute pinnacle of crazy costumes, however, when I saw a man dressed up as a lightsaber. No, seriously. Don't ask me how, I just looked and marveled. Or, I suppose a better word would be gawked.

Like Disney World But...

We didn't actually get to meet George Lucas, although I like to think he snuck into one of our shows and laughed and laughed. But we did meet, and take a picture with, Warwick Davis, who played (among other things), Wicket the Ewok, Willow, Professor Flitwick, and most recently Marvin the paranoid android. He is surprisingly short and a pretty cool guy too.

Overall, I have to say it was a fun experience, and I'm really happy I got to go. Walking around the center, seeing a few stormtroopers, a few 300 lb Jedi, long lines everywhere, I remarked to my girlfriend, "You know, this place is kinda like Disney World, but without the rides." She laughed, but I was serious. I've always thought the atmosphere's what it's all about at Disney World — that you're in another land, far from the ordinary and mundane; Celebration III had that in spades. It didn't matter that I had three papers to write and two problem sets to finish and goodness knows what else; here, in front of me, were actual living fantasy characters. Things that could never exist in real life were suddenly there with their arms around me as I posed for a picture. In a way, it was like seeing proof that dreams could come true, even if they were nerdy dreams from a galaxy far, far away.

One thing's for sure: it beats doing problem sets.



NORI PRITCHARD

Among the highlights of Celebration III were the costumes. One fan went so far as to dress as a human light saber.

Inauguration Begins With *White Noise, White Light* Exhibit



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

The exhibit *White Noise, White Light* opened yesterday. Its opening was the first event in a week of festivities in honor of Institute President Susan Hockfield's inauguration. Above: Hockfield shares a few words with Graduate Student Council President Barun Singh G. Right: Lucia T. Tian '08 points out the toppings she would like on her fried cheesecake at one of several dessert tables.



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Perry L. Hung '08 helps a junior high school student present his project on airfoils to his family in Kresge Auditorium on Saturday, April 30, at the SciPro reception. The reception featured presentations of students' science projects, which they worked on for two months. MIT students volunteered as mentors for these junior high school children through SciPro, which is run by the Public Service Center.

Solution
to
Crossword

from page 7

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Sr. Housing Planned Possible Site Would Accommodate 120

Seniors, from Page 1

Web site, University Residential Community@MIT (<http://web.mit.edu/urc/>), the final residential site to be chosen will be:

1. Within walking distance of MIT
2. Close to MIT's medical facilities
3. Near public transportation
4. Near retail services, hotels, and cultural activities
5. Near restaurants, theaters, etc.
6. Endowed with "good views or pleasant settings."

Gray said the site should "not just be a place to live," but have the "elements of a community" with common space, rooms, and office space. He would like the community to develop a formal affiliation with MIT Medical and would like to have a nurse practitioner in the community.

Site for community still uncertain

Gray wrote in a recent e-mail to subscribers to a URC at MIT list that two of the three sites initially explored are now unlikely. The site now considered most likely will be able to accommodate about 120 units. The location of the site should be decided "before the term ends," Gray said. The two other sites explored were on Main Street and Third Street.

So far, about 80 people interested in the project have made \$1,000 deposits, which are required by the URC to secure a priority reservation for a housing unit.

In his e-mail, Gray wrote that because building in Cambridge is expensive, the proposed housing may "not be a realistic proposition for a young person."

"Many of the MIT people [interested] have substantial homes in the suburbs," he said. "Given the appreciation and property values in the

past years, they will find living here less costly."

Community first proposed in 2002

Paul Grayson, a consultant specializing in retirement housing and accessible environments, first proposed the idea of "Aging in Place" to a small group of five in 2002, which expanded into the current group, Gray said.

There was no one in the initial group who had "experience in real estate construction," Gray said. The committee therefore relied on Boston-area consultants for information about possible construction sites.

The group started out by proposing that the residential community be for people aged 55 or older. However, Gray said that "most people preferred a broader age group" and that the age restriction was eventually dropped.

From late August to September 2003, a survey was sent to 900 people in the MIT community aged 55 or older to assess interest in the proposed housing project. Five hundred responded, and 320 expressed interest and asked to be kept informed, Gray said. The survey focused on the nature of the respondents' current living situations, their willingness to relocate to a site in Cambridge, their memberships in the MIT Health Plan, and their continuing relationships with MIT.

Based on the generally positive results, the proposition was "first announced to the MIT community about eleven months ago," and then a group was formed to develop the project, Gray said.

URC is entirely a private undertaking by Gray and others. "MIT has been supportive of the concept" and has allowed them to use Institute resources to communicate with interested people but has not contributed any funding, Gray said.

Mozart's Requiem

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2005 Spring Concert

Kresge Auditorium

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Photograph by Din T. Natvitayaku <http://www.theearth.com/gallery/Oceania/Australia/photo/3843.htm>

Senior House Hosts Steer Roast, Offering Lots of Meat and Lots of Fire



Senior House's annual Steer Roast party stretched from Friday, April 29, to Sunday, May 1. *Clockwise from top left:* • A helper wets the meat to prevent burning as a tower of flame erupts from the fire pit. • Helpers spritz the Steer Roast fire pit with lighter fluid in preparation for the pit lighting. • Jordan B. Brayanov G tends the cooking Steer Roast feast with a fire extinguisher. • A large slab of meat shares a rare moment of solitude with the accelerant the day before the fire pit is ignited. *Photography by Omari Stephens*

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Gil Rose, Conductor

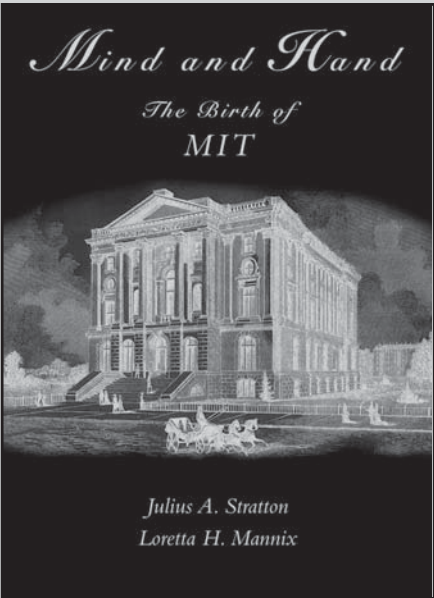
Ken Ueno Kaze-no-Oka (Hill of the Winds) (2005)
World Premiere, written in memory of Toru Takemitsu

Tan Dun Water Concerto (1998)
Boston Premiere, written in memory of Toru Takemitsu

Toru Takemitsu
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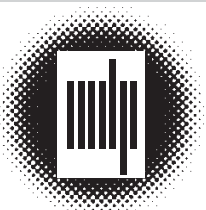


Julius A. Stratton (1902-1994) was an MIT student, a faculty member, provost, chancellor, and Institute president from 1959 to 1966.

Loretta H. Mannix was Dr. Julius Stratton's administrative assistant at MIT.

MIND AND HAND
The Birth of MIT
by Julius A. Stratton and Loretta H. Mannix
preface by Paul E. Gray

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—Susan Hockfield, President, MIT



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Langer Wins \$500,000 Award

Awards, from Page 1

dred Dresselhaus has distinguished herself by leading scientific investigations into superconductivity, the electronic properties of carbon and now, the new physics at the nanometer scale. She has consistently combined significant scientific accomplishments and prominent leadership roles with an abiding commitment to support the advancement of women in the sciences,” said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation, according to the press release.

Dresselhaus, who said she was surprised by the award, said that the impact of her research is on a longer timescale than that of many of the award recipients. “We do science, and it has some impact, maybe not immediately, but in the long-term, on technology,” she said.

She was also cited for her efforts in encouraging women to pursue scientific fields. “When I came, we had very few women in science at MIT,” with females comprising only four percent of the undergraduate student body, she said. At the press conference for the award, the only female student in the first class she taught in 1967 asked to give a statement about the impact Dresselhaus had on her, she said.

The Heinz Award, given in five categories, was established in 1993 by Teresa Heinz. The Heinz Foundation, which presents the awards, was

founded in 1984 by the late Senator John Heinz, according to the press release.

Langer awarded medical prize

Last Friday, Langer was awarded the \$500,000 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, the largest prize awarded for medicine in the United States.

Langer received the award for his scientific research, “most notably his seminal research on polymer-based drug delivery systems, which has allowed clinicians to control the release of molecules in a slow, steady, and controlled manner,” according to the press release.

“The world owes an indefinite debt of gratitude to Dr. Langer for his pioneering work in the field of drug delivery systems that has improved the lives of more than 60 million people each year,” said James J. Barba, chair of the board, president and chief executive officer of Albany Medical Center, in the press release.

Langer said that receiving the award was “surprising and gratifying.” He is not certain how he will use the \$500,000 prize, but has considered putting some towards his educational projects or his children’s educations, he said.

The prize, established in 2000 as a result of a \$50 million gift from philanthropist Marty Silverman, is awarded annually to “encourage and

recognize extraordinary and sustained contributions to improving health care and promoting biomedical research,” according to the press release. Langer was born in Albany.

Acemoglu wins Clark Medal

Acemoglu was named the recipient of the John Bates Clark Medal last week. The award is given bi-annually by the American Economics Association “for outstanding research accomplishments in economics to a scholar under the age of 40,” according to the Web site.

Acemoglu was recognized for his work in labor economics, macroeconomics, institutional economics, and political economy, according to the Web site. Singled out was his work on “the role of institutions in development and in political economy,” according to the Web site.

Acemoglu said he was “flattered” that he was thought “worthy of this prize,” and that the award is a “great encouragement to the kind of research that I’m doing.”

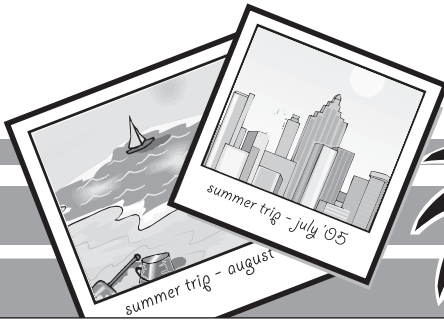
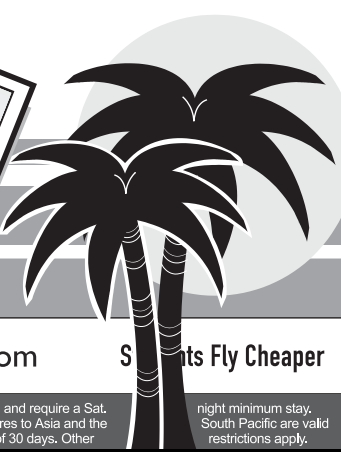
Eleven of the 29 previous winners of the Clark Medal have later been awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics.

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SPORTS

New Steroid Proposal Finally Addresses Problems Seriously

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

Finally, Bud Selig is stepping up to the plate on the issue of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

In a letter to union head Donald Fehr last week, Bud Selig, the Commissioner of Major League Baseball, proposed a 50-game suspension for first time offenders of the steroid policy, a 100-game suspension for a second mishap, and a lifetime ban from baseball for the third offense. He also proposed a tougher stance on amphetamines, called for more frequent testing, and wanted an independent third party to administer the drug testing program.

This policy proposal is a significant increase from the current plan of a 10-day suspension for a first offense, 30 days for a second, 60 days for a third, and one year for a fourth. The punishment for a fifth offense is left to the discretion of the commissioner.

The current policy is a joke. A 10-day suspension usually is not even a 10-game absence and would not even be the equivalent of a one-game suspension in the National Football League. Cheating is cheating, and it should be recognized as such. Sammy Sosa putting cork in his bat got him a 10-game suspension; the drug problem is a lot more serious than that.

Baseball understands that it really needs to clean up its own act after hearing from football early last week. Selig realizes that if he does nothing now, congress will step in and do something drastic very soon. He needs to use his leverage now and impose something pleasing to the players which at the same time accomplishes the goal of appeasing congress. Had congress stepped in, they very likely would have imposed something similar to the current World Anti-Doping Agency policy. They would impose a two-year suspension on the first offense and a lifetime ban on the second.

Unfortunately, the new policy most likely will not

take this form, because the MLB Player's union will not approve of it. However, the gist of the new policy will likely be enforced because both sides realize the gravity of the situation. These drastic times call for drastic measures, and 50 or 100 games does not seem that outrageous in the face of how much steroids can really damage the player, the trust of the fans, and the reputation of the game.

The 50-game suspension for a first-time offense is a fantastic idea. Since a lot of players take over-the-counter-drugs that can test positively, it makes them more aware of what they are actually putting in their bodies. They should not just be popping anything that can give them bigger muscles and instead should focus on good work ethic.

The 50-game suspension also tells the players that the league is serious about stopping any form of cheating. The league no longer wants to put asterisks in the Hall of Fame; only people who deserve to get there naturally should be in the hall. It no longer wants to ruin its famous records with question marks about a player's doping; the league wants a true homerun hitter to break 61, not some liar who juiced himself up in order to capture the hearts and imagination of America.

The three-strikes rule is also a great idea. If you are going to continuously break the rules, you should not be a part of the game. After all, does a company keep an employee if he keeps breaking the law? It's about time that baseball followed the rest of mainstream America. Besides, the three-strikes rule is at the very heart of how baseball is played, so why not adopt it in how baseball players are managed?

The ultimate goal, of course, is to get rid of steroids all together. With these incredibly heavy deterrents, it will be much more likely that players will get the message. However, with these tougher rules will come drugs that are even tougher to detect with tests. MLB needs to stay up with the times. Let's make sure that steroids can go away forever, and let's restore integrity to America's pastime again.

Men's Tennis Ruling Conference, Now 6-0

By Travis Johnson
STAFF WRITER

With seven straight conference titles, it's official: MIT Men's Tennis is a dynasty, ruling over the New



England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference like the Yankees over the AL East.

MIT hosted the conference tournament this past Saturday. They defeated Coast Guard 4-0 in the semifinals and Wheaton 4-0 in the finals to win a trophy with a very boring list of winners on it: 1999 MIT, 2000 MIT, 2001 MIT, etc.

The Engineers had high expectations Saturday, coming in with a perfect 5-0 record in the conference and having never lost in the short history of NEWMAC Men's Tennis. But unlike in previous seasons, MIT had a stiff competitor: Five days earlier, Wheaton College pushed MIT to the limit in the meet at Wheaton, winning three singles matches and one doubles. But MIT prevailed in the end, giving them home-court advantage for Saturday's tournament.

"We were playing at Wheaton last time on really fast courts, so it was a little tough condition-wise," said Coach Charles Maher. "Today we're on our own court, so our guys are used to that."

In the semi-finals, MIT dispensed of Coast Guard in a mere 100 minutes, winning three singles' matches worth one point and two doubles, which secured the doubles point. Eric A. Beren '08 and Mark D. Egan '07 played extremely well, winning both in doubles and singles.

The quick win in the semi's was not only an impressive display, but an important part of the team's preparation, as it gave them time to rest before the finals took place later that afternoon.

Two hours later, the real drama began as Wheaton, which easily handled Babson in their semifinal, came to the Tennis Bubble to meet MIT in the finals. The match started with the top four singles players from each team squaring off. This setup had produced a split 2-2 result in MIT's previous meet with Wheaton.

Wheaton's intensity was high early on, as each member of the team yelled an emphatic "come on" every time they scored a point. The Engineers, by contrast, were calm and professional, clearly more experienced in big matches.

The top singles set was competitive early, as Evan W. Tindell '06 started the first set 3-2 on serve against Wheaton's Payum Payman. Tindell's first break came in the sixth game, when he started attacking Payman's backhand in long rallies. The game point was decided on by such a rally, as Payman's backhand went into the net. They closed the set 6-3.

After the first set break, the match wasn't nearly as close. With Tindell serving, Payman had little chance, sometimes struggling to even return a second serve. A crowd thriller came in the second set, when Payman hit a drop shot that both he and the crowd assumed would be good, but Tindell managed to chase it down and hit it from inches above the ground to inches above the net. The final match tally was 6-3, 6-2.

Thomas H. Dohlman '07 dominated the third slot for MIT, winning four of the first five games and securing a 6-2, 6-0 victory in about an hour. Egan had similar success in the fourth singles slot, breaking serve once in each set and winning 6-4, 6-3.

Egan had a scare in the first set when he stepped on a ball, fell down, and had a visit from the trainer. "We were extremely lucky, because he played a phenomenal match today ... He stepped on a ball, I mean that could put you out for the season if you sprain your ankle or knee, so we were very lucky," said Maher afterward.

If Egan hadn't been able to continue, MIT would have had to forfeit the point to Wheaton.

With MIT winning the first three singles decisions and ahead one set to none in the second slot, it looked like Wheaton would soon be finished. But they had a last stand left in them: Matt Sheers, their second singles player, took the second set from MIT's Beren in come-from-behind fashion, turning a 2-4 deficit into a 6-4 set win. The match was left unfinished after MIT clinched the overall victory.

In both the fifth and sixth singles matches, MIT won the first set easily, but ran into some trouble in the second set. Eventually, Colin L. Klick '07 won the sixth slot game 6-0, 6-2 and sealed the meet for MIT. The fifth and second matches were left unfinished after MIT clinched the victory.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

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Yeomen of the Guard

\$6 - MIT Students
\$8 - Other Students,
Seniors, Children
\$10 - MIT Community
\$12 - General Public

Final Weekend!

May 5 - 7 @ 8pm
May 8 @ 2pm

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